

ASR Programmatic Questions

- Will ASR have working groups and, if so, which working groups?

Yes, and the proposed working groups will be discussed in the fall working group meetings. One prospective organization under serious consideration is to have three standing thematic working groups as an “umbrella” structure over topical focus groups as needed at which major collaborative activities occur. Final decision will be made by HQ after full input from the science team.

- Will the new program re-emphasize observations, after a few years of drifting away from that emphasis?

Yes, observations will be especially important, with a focus on how to derive the parameters we need from the existing and new instruments purchased under the Recovery Act.

- What will the balance of research/funding/etc. be with regard to former-ARM vs former-ASP activities?

For the immediate term, the balance will be unchanged, though there will be no distinction between “former-program” activities, and we anticipate that many future activities will not be easily classifiable in terms of an individual former program. Our goal is to maintain programmatic balance among the current areas of aerosol, cloud, and radiation, as we introduce expanded activities in the aerosol-cloud-precipitation regime.

- Who will be the program's leaders, at the program manager, science team, and working group levels? Will there be a single chief scientist or two or none? What will be their roles? How will they be selected? When?

The two program managers are Kiran Alapaty and Ashley Williamson, who will manage the science team. At HQ Ferrell, Petty, Alapaty, and Williamson are responsible for coordinating the ASR science with the ARM Facility. In the working group structure under discussion, there would be two co-chairs for each of the working groups who will lead each of the working groups. A group (yet to be named) to include the working group co-chairs, will provide to the program managers input on program integration. For the immediate future, the program will not designate a Chief Scientist. The need for and possible role of one [or more] ASR chief scientists will be determined as the needs of the integrated program become clearer.

- Will ASR get more funding to conduct research with the new instrumentation? Will ACRF get more funding to operate these instruments and archive the data?

ASR is receiving an increase in funding for 2010 for new research, part of which will be to provide data products from the new Recovery Act instruments. ACRF has reprogrammed funds and will receive a small increase in budget that should support the new instruments.

- What is the general funding outlook for ASR? Is the combining of programs a means for DOE to trim the overall funding?

The merger was motivated by science integration, not cost-cutting. The 2010 budget request for ASR is \$26,452K, which is a million dollar increase over the sum of the two former programs, and there is no anticipation of funding reductions for ASR. The overall budget outlook is tied to the BER climate change research portfolio. Obviously our share will be influenced by the productivity and quality of the science produced by the ASR PIs.

- Will there be yearly RFPs for the new ASR? Or will the funding cycle be similar to the former ARM cycle? Will there be separate calls for ASP-type research or will these be part of the whole?

While there would be some advantages to a yearly funding cycle, changing the overall funding cycle is complicated by considerable administrative issues. The most likely funding cycle will be an extension of the two of three year pattern used by the ARM Science Program. There will be a single FOA beginning in 2010 for ASR grant applications covering research topics applicable to the entire program (and thus both prior programs).

- Will there be a single science team meeting for ASR? The science team meetings for the two programs were rather different. How will these be reconciled?

There is one program thus there will be one science team meeting. The format will be designed to meet programmatic needs. The first ASR STM will be held in the DC area in March, 2010.

- Right now I have separate funding from ARM and ASP. In the future will I be able to submit two proposals along those research lines?

It will be best if you can consolidate your proposed research efforts such that there is no artificial boundary on your aerosol research efforts (which is a prime reason why ASR was formed).